



LUMHS Participation and Contribution in SDG Policy and Strategies Development and

LUMHS Participation in Consultative Workshop on Disaster Preparedness and Climate Change

Event Title: Consultative Workshop – “*Bridging the Collaboration Gap between Academia and PDMA/DDMA Sindh through Curriculum Development and Advancing Research on Disaster Preparedness, DRR/Climate Change Education*”

Date: 21st October 2024

Organized by: Foundation for Rural Development Program (FRDP) Pakistan in collaboration with DevRes, CESVI, Welt Hunger Hilfe, and the European Union under the project *Building Institutional Capacity and Resilience Against Natural Disasters (BRAND)*.

Report:

Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, actively participated in the consultative workshop on Disaster Preparedness and Climate Change, organized under the BRAND project. The workshop served as a collaborative platform to strengthen the partnership between academia and disaster management authorities, particularly the Provincial and District Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA/DDMA) Sindh.

The primary focus of the workshop was to explore ways to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Education into academic curricula and research initiatives. This integration aims to enhance institutional preparedness, resilience, and community awareness regarding natural disasters and climate-related challenges.

Faculty members and representatives from LUMHS contributed their expertise and insights during the consultation sessions. Their active participation highlighted the university's commitment to promoting sustainable development, public health resilience, and evidence-based disaster management strategies through education and research.

LUMHS's involvement in this consultative initiative aligns with its broader mission of contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 13, Climate Action** and **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities**, by fostering education and collaboration for a safer and more resilient future.



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Community-Based Research Collaboration between LUMHS and Sindh Mental Health Authority (SMHA)

Title of Study: *Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) of Thari People about Mental Health*

Collaborating Organizations: Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Sindh Mental Health Authority (SMHA), Thar Foundation, Sir C.J. Institute, and Health Department, Government of Sindh

Principal Investigator: Dr. Abdul Razzaque Nohri

Co-Principal Investigator: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Siddiqui (Department of Community Medicine, LUMHS)

Leadership: Dr. Karim A. Khuwaja, Chairman, SMHA

Guidance: Prof. Dr. Ikram Din Ujjan, Vice Chancellor, LUMHS

Introduction

Under the visionary leadership of the Honorable Vice Chancellor, **Prof. Dr. Ikram Din Ujjan**, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) collaborated with the **Sindh Mental Health Authority (SMHA)** to conduct a **community-based research study** titled “*Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) of Thari People about Mental Health.*”

The study aimed to assess the level of awareness, cultural perceptions, and behavioral practices related to mental health among the people of **Tharparkar**, with the objective of guiding future **policy development, community awareness, and intervention programs** in the region.

Research Leadership and Team

- **Principal Investigator:** Dr. Abdul Razzaque Nohri (Researcher, Public Health Specialist & Senior Pharmacist)
 - **Co-Principal Investigator:** Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Siddiqui (Department of Community Medicine, LUMHS) – provided technical and academic inputs.
 - **Lead Organization:** Sindh Mental Health Authority, chaired by Dr. Karim A. Khuwaja.
 - **Collaborators:** Thar Foundation, Sir C.J. Institute, and Health Department, Government of Sindh.
 - **Research Team:** Included Dr. Bharat Kumar and Dr. Manisha (Consultant Psychiatrists, Civil Hospital Mithi), Mr. Fayaz Shaikh (Thar Foundation), and a group of trained data collectors who conducted extensive fieldwork in Tharparkar.
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Research Dissemination Event

The **Research Report and Findings** were formally launched at a ceremony held at **PMA House, Karachi**. The event was attended by a wide range of **psychiatrists, doctors, researchers, academicians, media representatives, and members of civil society**, reflecting broad sectoral interest in the study's outcomes.

The ceremony was graced by:

- **Chief Guest:** Prof. Dr. Saeed Qureshi, Vice Chancellor, Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS)
- **Guest of Honor:** Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani, Member National Assembly (Tharparkar)

Other notable attendees included **Mr. Farhan Ansari** (General Manager, Thar Foundation), **Brig. Tarique** (Rescue 1122), **Dr. Aijaz** (Deputy Director General Health), **Dr. Nisar Sohoo** (Medical Superintendent, Sir C.J. Hospital), and senior officials from the **Pakistan Medical Association (PMA)**.

Significance and Impact

This collaborative research reflects LUMHS's continued commitment to:

- Advancing **public and community mental health research**.
- Promoting **awareness and destigmatization of mental health issues** in marginalized regions.
- Supporting **evidence-based policy formulation** through partnerships with government and development organizations.
- Contributing to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being)** and **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**.

The findings of this KAP study are expected to serve as an important reference for designing **culturally sensitive mental health programs**, strengthening service delivery, and informing **provincial mental health strategies** in Sindh.

Conclusion

Through this collaboration with SMHA and partner institutions, **LUMHS** reaffirmed its leadership in community-oriented public health research and its commitment to improving **mental health and well-being** in underserved areas of Pakistan. The initiative stands as a

model for academia-policy partnerships aimed at promoting mental health awareness and resilience across communities.





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LUMHS Participation and Contribution in Policy Development and Strategies for Flood Management

Event: *Flood 2022 Provincial Learning Forum: Insights, Stories, and Recommendations for Future Resilience Building.*

Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) participated in this provincial forum as part of its ongoing commitment to contributing academic expertise and research insights to **provincial and national resilience and policy development efforts**.

Background: Every year, Pakistan faces recurring floods that lead to severe humanitarian, environmental, and economic consequences. These floods cause widespread displacement, damage to infrastructure, loss of livelihoods, and increased health risks, particularly in vulnerable rural communities. The recurring disasters highlight the urgent need for sustainable flood management and resilience-building strategies.

University representatives actively engaged in discussions addressing:

- The **health and well-being impact** of climate-induced disasters on vulnerable populations.
- The **importance of evidence-based policy formulation** and **community health preparedness** in flood-affected regions.
- **Integrating public health education and disaster risk management** into academic curricula.
- **Collaborative research and data-driven modelling** to forecast climate and health risks.

Through this engagement, LUMHS reinforced its institutional objective to support **adaptive management, policy innovation, and capacity building** through academic participation in national and regional forums.

Alignment with SDG Policy Development

LUMHS's participation in such collaborative initiatives demonstrates its **direct and meaningful involvement in regional and national SDG policy processes**, particularly by:

- **Identifying problems and challenges** related to climate and health resilience in post-disaster contexts.
- **Providing policy input** through dialogue with provincial and national stakeholders, including **PDMA Sindh** and **UN agencies**.
- **Supporting the development of integrated strategies** linking community health, education, and disaster preparedness.

- **Facilitating adaptive management** by promoting evidence-based decision-making and health-oriented resilience planning.

Conclusion

LUMHS's participation in the *Flood 2022 Provincial Learning Forum* exemplifies the university's **proactive engagement in SDG-related policy dialogue and development**, strengthening intersectoral collaboration and contributing to Pakistan's **national resilience and sustainability agenda**.





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